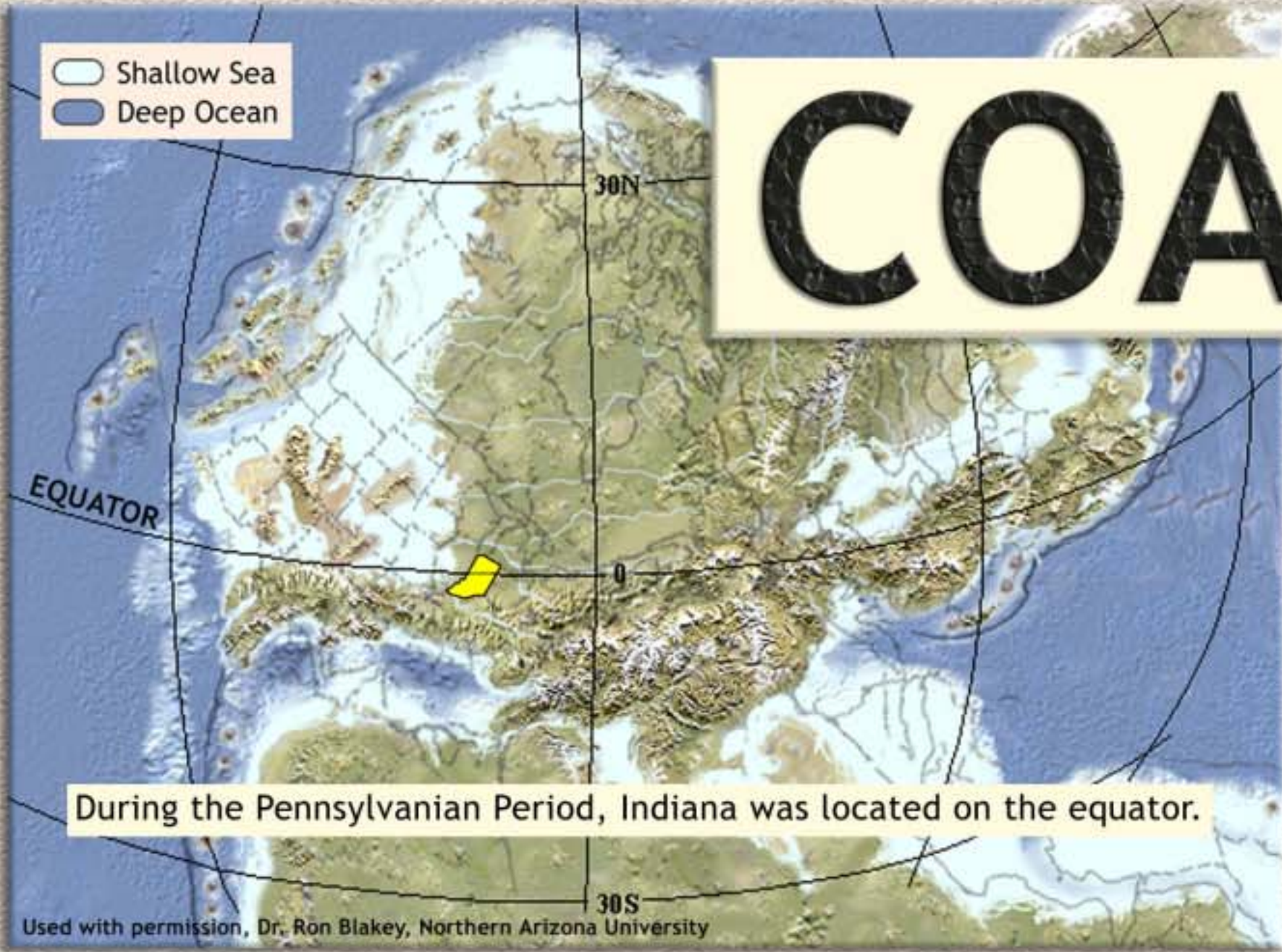


COAL FORMATION

in Indiana



From the hot, humid swamps teeming with bizarre and exotic life-forms comes the rock that burns: COAL.

In this warm, swampy environment plants grew abundantly. Layers of dead plant debris, called peat were built up faster than the plants decomposed. Over millions of years, thick layers of sediments were deposited on top of the peat, squeezing water from the underlying layers and creating the pressure and temperature necessary to turn peat to coal. It took about 30 feet of peat to make the 3-foot seam of coal that ran through the hillside in front of you.



The fossils shown below are remains of ancient plants. These and other fossils helped the artist visualize this interpretation of what the Turkey Run area might have looked like during the Pennsylvanian Period, some 300 million years ago.



This hollow swamp-dwelling tree grew as tall as an 8-story building.



Annularia: the leaves of Calamites.



Leaves grew out of the trunk of the *Lepidodendron* tree, forming the diamond-shaped leaf cushions and scars shown in the bark fossil above. This giant of the swamps grew 18 stories high and 7 feet wide.



These leaves belonged to tree ferns that grew 3 stories high. These trees had no branches, just a crown of fronds.

